17

Secta. II-27—100,000—21-8-48.

Development (1948) Department.

MS SERIES

G.O. No. 6383

Dated 27. 12. 1948

[Despatch Abstract.]

AGRICULTURE : GROW MORE FOOD : STARRED QUESTION NO.111 RE: GROUNDNUT CAKE : ACCUMULATION OF STOCKS IN CEDED DISTRICTS : PAPERS RECORDED.

EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DATED THE 14TH AUGUST 1948.

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state -

(a) whether the Government have fixed the price or rate per bag of groundnut cake and whether it is a fact that the millers have been selling them inthe blackmarket at a very abnormal price or rate;

(b) what steps the Government propose to take to check the same;

(c) whether it is a fact that large stocks of groundnut cake are available in Ceded Districts for transport; and

(d) what action the Government propose to take for the quick transport of the said cake from the Ceded districts and thus make it available for the ryots at the controlled rates?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: (a) Celing prices for the sixty per cent of the production in the mills to be procured by the Agricultural Department have been fixed. The millers are at liberty to sell the de-controlled forty per cent of the production without price-control.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The stocks with the millers in Ceded Districts are as follows:-

Cuddapah	..	1,215 tons on 1st June 1948
Kurnool	..	3,129 tons on 1st June 1948
Bellary	,,	1,178 tons on 1st July 1948
Anantapur	..	3,119 tons on 1st July 1948

(d) The Chief Commercial Superintendent and the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities have been moved by the Director of Agriculture for movement facilities and it is expected that the stocks will be moved as quickly as possible.

SRI N. RANGA REDDI: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Government have so framed the rules that the groundnut cakes ~~liable~~ available in the Cuddapah district could not be used in the Cuddaph district.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: It is quite possible, Sir, because the groundnut cakes produced in Cuddapah district have to be distributed not in Cuddapah district alone. This is a sort of rationing that whatever is allotted to Cuddapah is left in Cuddapah, and the rest sent to other districts.

SRI R. SURYNARAYANA RAO: May I know the rationable by which 40 per cent is decontroller and 60 per cent controlled:

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: With the existing prices that the Government are giving to the millers compared with the market prices of the groundnut kernel and oil, Government find that the millers cannot work the mills with any sort of profit if the Government continue to pay the same price for the entire quantity. Therefore to allow them to run their mills economically we thought it would be better to leave them a portion of the cake to be sold at their own prices. Even with this a number of mills have closed as they cannot work economically.

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Why should not the Government purchase the whole stock of cake at a reasonable price which will enable the mills to run economically?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: Even at the existing rate the agriculturists have to pay about Rs. 10 to Rs.11 per a bag. I do not think that many ryots can afford to pay more.

SRI R. SURYANARYANA RAO: Will it not be better if the whole groundnut cake is purchased by the Government and its distribution arranged on an equitable basis, if necessary, with Government subsidy, in the interests of agriculture?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: The Government are already subsidizing a

good portion. They are not charging the cost of distribution and transport from one area to the other; they are charging only the actual cost and even this comes to a big amount. It is all a question of finance.

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Is there any change in the method of distribution.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: My hon.Friend has asked a separate question, which will be coming up for answer some other day. The distribution of the controlled portion, viz. the sixty per cent of the controlled portion- has hitherto been done through the Agricultural department. But now it is proposed to entrust the work to the Co-operative department.

SRI N. RANGA REDDI: As the coupons issued in other districts are being honoured in Cuddapah district, is it not a fact that even the full quantity allotted for Cuddapah will not be available for distribution in that district?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: Coupons issued in one district may be cahsed in any other district in the border areas. This is so for the convenience of ryots as otherwise they mayh have to travel long distances. If a coupon of any other district is cahsed in Cuddpah, that much of groundnut cake will be replenished to Cuddapah by reducing the allotment to the district in which the coupon was issued.

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI: May I know whether the Government have an idea of the quantity available and the quantity for which coupons were issued?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: Certainly we have an idea. Even yesterday the Hon. Food Minister gave figures of the total quantity for which coupons were issued.

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI: Are the Government aware that the cake available in Kurnool district can be given only at the rate of one bag for every thirteen acres?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: Considering the overall position in the Province, we will be able to supply only one bag for every six acresof wet land.

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO: Are permits given for export to places outside the Province?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: No, Sir.

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO: Is it not a fact that permits were given for moving groundnut cake from West Godavari to Tanjore district.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: It is not a question of granting permits. Tanjore does not produce groundnut cake at all, whereas West Godavari does. The excess over the allotment to West Godavari is sent to Tanjore or any other deficit area.

SRI MOTHEY NARAYANA RAO: Is the Hon. Minister aware that the production in West Godavari is not enough for that district?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: Not only in West Godavari, but throughout the Province there is a deficiency.

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI: Is the Hon. Minister aware that for every thirteen acres, only one bag is allowed generally in Kurnool district.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: I am not aware.

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: May I take it from the answer of the Hon. Minister that the stock transferred from the Ceded districts was not really the surplus stock but only the excess over the allotment.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: Yes, Sir, it cannot be said to be surplus if we give four and a half bags per acre.

SRI N. SANKARA REDDI: In view of the very small acreage of cultivation in

in Ceded districts, will the Government be pleased to supply enough cake for those districts?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: Sir, it is very difficult. We have not got sufficient stock to meet even the minimum requirements of the whole Province. That is the reason why we have to ration. Whatever can be given to Ceded districts or Cuddapah considering the overall position will be allotted.

MR. PRESIDENT: I think the Hon. Member wants to know whether any preference will be shown to the Ceded districts.

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON: As such latitude as is possible will be shown to the Ceded districts, because the area is generally famine-stricken.

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

The question has been answered in the Council and the proceedings received which will be found on pages 25-32 c.f. The papers may now be recorded. The supplementary questiés did not evoke any specific undertaking on the part of the Honourable Minister.

N.M.M/25.12.48

G.O. (Ms) No. 6383 Dev. dated the 27th December 1948.

Abstract

**

AGRICULTURE - Grow More Food - Starred Question No. 111 - Groundnut cake - Accumulation of stocks in Ceded Districts - Papers recorded.

/True copy/

Sk.

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office, Egmore.

10/7